

IRA E. OWEN,

PETERSBURG, ILL.

Historic New Salem State Park is located
near Petersburg on Highways 97 and 123
about 17 miles northwest of Springfield, Illinois.

GENUINE CURTEICH-CHICAGO "C.T. PHOTO-COTE" POST CARD (REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

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STAMP
HERE

NEW SALEM

In the fall of 1828, James Rutledge and John Camron erected homes on this hill. The following year they built a grist and sawmill on the Sangamon River just below the hill, laid out the town of New Salem and began to sell lots. The mill became so popular that the town grew rapidly and flourished for several years although it never included more than one hundred inhabitants. With the founding and growth of Petersburg, two miles to the north and more accessibly located, its decline began. When the seat of the new County of Menard was located at Petersburg in 1839, New Salem quickly passed out of existence.

Abraham Lincoln resided at New Salem from the summer of 1831 until the spring of 1837, supporting himself successively as clerk and mill-hand, soldier in the Black Hawk War, storekeeper, postmaster and deputy surveyor. In 1832 he entered politics. Although defeated in his first campaign for the Legislature, he was elected a member of the House of Representatives in 1834 and again in 1836. Throughout his residence at New Salem, Lincoln strove to perfect his education, studying grammar, mathematics, and finally law. Upon his admission to the bar in March, 1837, he sought greater opportunities than New Salem offered, and so removed to Springfield.